

From: crash
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:09pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Here's my comment:

The proposed settlement is unacceptable. I feel it's proof positive that the DOJ has totally caved in to the force of a scurrilous monopoly.

The most overt example of this is in Section J 1 of the Prohibited Conduct notes. You know the part, where you explicitly state that Microsoft's conduct regarding authentication and Digital Rights Management will never be subjected to oversight. Security is used as an excuse. There are ways to ensure security while providing oversight; in fact the onus should be on Microsoft to stay secure as their practices are scrutinized. If they aren't willing to come up with an acceptable secure oversight plan, there are thousands of incredibly bright people who can help you establish one, just ask around.

Authentication and DRM are going to be the next digital battlegrounds in the endless cockfight we call the Free Market Economy. If this proposed settlement goes through, the world will suffer in ways you simply cannot imagine.

And the rest of the settlement is also unacceptable, though I don't have the time to go into it right now.

In closing, do not settle with Microsoft on the currently proposed terms. Either come up with a settlement which fixes the problems or drag them back in court and get a judge to impose a decent remedy. If you do anything less, history will remember your names, and not fondly.

KeMpKeS

"The 22 babies born in New York City while the World Trade Center burned will never know what they missed. The last half of the 20th century will seem like a wild party for rich kids, compared to what's coming now. The party's over, folks. The time has come for loyal Americans to Sacrifice. ... Sacrifice. ... Sacrifice."

-- Hunter S. Thompson